



**UNITED STATES ENVIRONMENTAL PROTECTION AGENCY  
REGION 7**

11201 Renner Boulevard  
Lenexa, Kansas 66219

**OCT 18 2013**

The Honorable Michael B. Seyb  
Mayor  
Pretty Prairie  
119 W Main  
P.O. Box 68  
Pretty Prairie, Kansas 67570-0068

Dear Mayor Seyb:

The purpose of this letter is to call your attention to the matter of the drinking water in the city of Pretty Prairie. As you are aware, for a period of nearly 20 years, the city's drinking water has exceeded the Environmental Protection Agency's standard for nitrates. Based on monitoring data that the water system has provided to the Kansas Department of Health and Environment, it appears that the nitrate level in the city's drinking water is continuing to increase.

Given our common interest in protecting the health of the citizens of Pretty Prairie, the EPA wishes to begin discussions with you to find and implement a permanent solution to address the nitrates in Pretty Prairie's drinking water.

We understand that Pretty Prairie has made a number of attempts at working with both the EPA and the KDHE to address this important water quality issue in the past. We must emphasize, however, that the approach of using bottled water as a permanent solution to address nitrates in drinking water consumed by infants and pregnant/nursing mothers, is inconsistent with the National Primary Drinking Water Regulations. Because the nitrate level in your water continues to increase, the risk to individuals exposed to this acute contaminant also increases.

We are unaware of any specific actions that Pretty Prairie has initiated over the past several years to abate the nitrates in its drinking water. If the city has taken any actions or is planning to take any actions to reduce nitrate levels in its drinking water to meet the EPA's Maximum Contaminant Level of 10 mg/L, please advise the EPA of those actions. The EPA's goal is to ensure that the city takes action within a reasonable time frame to address the nitrate contamination in its water.

The EPA would like to meet with you to discuss this matter. It is our intention to invite representatives of the KDHE to participate in any such meeting. Please Scott Marquess, of my staff, at (913) 551-7131 to discuss a meeting.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Diane L. Huffman".

Diane L. Huffman

Chief

Water Enforcement Branch

cc: Darrel Plummer, KDHE



Printed on Recycled Paper